

United States
DISTRICT Court

Report of Chief Judge Norma Holloway Johnson

The United States District Court for the District of Columbia has welcomed two new judges since our last report. The Honorable Richard W. Roberts, who served as the Chief, Criminal Section, in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, was sworn in as a United States District Judge on July 31, 1998. On October 26, 1999, the Honorable Ellen Segal Huvelle was appointed by President Clinton and took her oath of office on January 12, 2000. She had served as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court for the District of Columbia since 1990. Magistrate Judge Alan Kay was reappointed to a second term in September 1999.

The District Court has witnessed many significant changes the past two years. The Honorable John Garrett Penn, after more than eighteen years as an active judge, including five years as Chief Judge, assumed senior status on March 31, 1998. On February 12, 1999, the Honorable Stanley Sporkin assumed senior status after serving more than fourteen years as an active judge. In January 2000, he resigned.

The Honorable Harold H. Greene, following a long illness, retired in late 1999 after more than twenty years on the federal bench. On January 29, 2000, he departed this life. Judge Greene will be long remembered for his commitment to due process, the rule of law, and the independence of the judiciary. On February 27, 2000, the Honorable Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr., died suddenly. For more than thirty years, he demonstrated extraordinary leadership not only in the performance of his duties but also in the administration of the federal judiciary. His service as Chief Judge for ten years was the highlight of his long, dedicated, and outstanding judicial career. On July 9, 1999, the District Court experienced a great loss in the death of the Honorable Oliver Gasch. Judge Gasch began his service to this Court on August 16, 1965, and for over thirty years, honored the community with his friendship, love of justice, and wisdom.

On July 31, 1998, Ms. Wilma A. Lewis, appointed United States Attorney by President Clinton, took her oath of office in the Ceremonial Courtroom. Prior to this appointment, she had served as the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of the Interior. At an earlier time, Ms. Lewis had served in the Office of the United States Attorney as a line Assistant, an Assistant Chief, and a Deputy Chief of the Civil Division.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and her sister, Mrs. Kathy Silva, renewed their oaths of allegiance to the United States at a November 10, 1998, naturalization ceremony. Secretary Albright, the featured speaker for the ceremony, marked the fiftieth anniversary of her arrival in the United States from Czechoslovakia.

In January 1999, the District Court voted to amend its jury plan to include additional sources of names to the Master Jury List. The additional sources selected were income tax records, individuals receiving public assistance, and individuals who have recently become citizens of the District of Columbia.

In February 1999, the District Court installed a new telephone and telecommunications system to replace an outdated system lacking capacity for expansion. Benefits of the new telecommunications system include caller identification and six-person conference calling.

On April 27, 1999, the District Court participated in a national observance of "Law Day." Two District of Columbia high schools, Banneker and Maret, were invited to the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building to participate in a novel program designed to provide high school seniors with early exposure to jury service, to educate them on its importance, and to increase their appreciation of civic responsibility. The program, entitled, *Celebrate Your Freedom: The Importance of Jury Service to an Independent Judi-*

ciary, was sponsored by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and the American Judicature Society. The program consisted of a mock trial that was broadcast via satellite over the closed-circuit Federal Judiciary Television Network to approximately two hundred federal courthouses. Students were asked to reach a verdict following the trial and were able to discuss their observations in a panel discussion with a local federal prosecutor and a federal public defender.

On October 27, 1999, the District Court participated in a national program for federal judges and journalists designed to improve communications between the federal judiciary and the media. The program, *Justice and Journalism: A Conference on the Federal Courts and the News Media*, was sponsored by the Judicial Branch of the Judicial Conference of the United States and The First Amendment Center. Over thirty judges and journalists from around the country with diverse viewpoints and differing philosophies attended.

On December 17, 1999, the District Court hosted the first *Program of the Law & Science Academy*, sponsored by the Einstein Institute for Science, Health and the Courts. The program, *Human Destiny, Genes and the Environment*, acquainted the judiciary with cutting edge developments and issues in complex, novel, scientific, technical and clinical evidence.

From October to December, 1999, the District Court embarked on a series of internal conversations with respect to jury issues entitled, *A Conversation Among Colleagues*. The lunch meetings provided opportunities for judges to informally discuss jury issues as they relate to managing jury trials.

The District Court continues to be a nationwide leader in court operations. In early 1999, the District Court was chosen to participate in a pilot program to provide nationwide simultaneous and consecutive interpreting services for short matters. In March 1999, the District Court was one of six test sites that began full implementation of a new automated Jury Management System (JMS). The JMS allows the Jury Office to send jury panels to courtrooms more expeditiously and produce historical reports based on case types to assist judges in determining the number of jurors needed to empanel a jury. In October 1999, the District Court was chosen as one of five courts to assist the Administrative Office in defining and developing the Case Management/Electronic Case Files Project. The project is the judiciary's effort to replace its aging case management systems and will enable courts to create electronic case files and implement electronic filing over the Internet.

Since our last biennial report, the number of civil case filings increased in 1998 by 1.6 percent and increased by 8.8 percent in 1999. Criminal case filings decreased by 11.3 percent in 1998 and decreased by 5.3 percent in 1999. For the United States Bankruptcy Court, case filings increased by fourteen percent in 1998 and decreased by six percent in 1999.

The growth the District Court has experienced within the past two years in the areas of court operations and automation and technology has been truly extraordinary. Led by 13 active and seven senior judges, and three full-time magistrate judges, the productivity and enthusiasm of the District Court remain high. We are fortunate to have so many gifted and devoted individuals who each fulfill integral roles in daily court operations. The new century promises a world defined by virtual instant communications, enormous quantities of information, and rapid technological changes. Together, we are prepared to embrace the many challenges of the new millennium.

Norma Holloway Johnson
Chief Judge
U.S. District Court

United states district court for the district of columbia

NORMA HOLLOWAY JOHNSON



Chief Judge Johnson was appointed to the United States District Court in May 1980 and became Chief Judge on July 22, 1997. She received a J.D. in 1962 from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.S. in 1955 from the University of the District of Columbia. Chief Judge Johnson served as a trial attorney in the Civil Division, U.S. Department of Justice, from 1963 to 1967, and as an Assistant Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia from 1967 to 1970. In October 1970, she was appointed Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia where she served until her appointment to the federal bench.

THOMAS PENFIELD JACKSON



Judge Jackson was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in June 1982. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1958 and Harvard Law School in 1964. Between college and law school, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Prior to his appointment to the federal bench, Judge Jackson practiced law for 18 years, primarily as a civil litigator. At the time of his appointment to the court, Judge Jackson was serving as President of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia.

THOMAS F. HOGAN



Judge Hogan was appointed to the United States District Court in August 1982. He graduated from Georgetown University, receiving an A.B. (classical) in 1960. He attended George Washington University's masters program in American and English literature from 1960 to 1962, and he graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1966, where he was the St. Thomas More Fellow. Following law school, Judge Hogan clerked for Judge William B. Jones of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia from 1966 to 1967. He served as counsel to the National Commission for the Reform of Federal Criminal Laws from 1967 to 1968, and was engaged in private practice from 1968 to 1982. He has been an adjunct professor of law at the Georgetown University Law Center and a Master of the Prettyman-Leventhal Inn of Court. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the District Court, Chair of the Courtroom Technology Subcommittee and serves on the Board of the Federal Judicial Center.

ROYCE C. LAMBERTH



Judge Lamberth received his appointment to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in November 1987. He was appointed Presiding Judge of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court in May 1995 by Chief Justice Rehnquist. Judge Lamberth graduated from the University of Texas and from the University of Texas School of Law, receiving an LL.B. in 1967. He served as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps of the United States Army from 1968 to 1974, including one year in Vietnam. After that, he became an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia. In 1978, Judge Lamberth became Chief of the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney's Office, a position he held until his appointment to the federal bench.

GLADYS KESSLER



Judge Kessler was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in July 1994. She received a B.A. from Cornell University and an LL.B. from Harvard Law School. Following graduation, Judge Kessler was employed by the National Labor Relations Board, served as Legislative Assistant to a U.S. Senator and a U.S. Congressman, worked for the New York City Board of Education, and then opened a public interest law firm. In June 1977, she was appointed Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. From 1981 to 1985, Judge Kessler served as Presiding Judge of the Family Division and was a major architect of one of the nation's first Multi-Door Courthouses. She served as President of the National Association of Women Judges and now serves on the Executive Committee of the ABA's Conference of Federal Trial Judges and the U.S. Judicial Conference's Committee on Court Administration and Management.

PAUL L. FRIEDMAN



Judge Friedman was appointed United States District Judge in August 1994. He graduated from Cornell University in 1965 and received a J.D. from the School of Law of the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1968. Following law school, Judge Friedman clerked for Judge Aubrey E. Robinson, Jr., of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia and for Judge Roger Robb of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1970 to 1974, and as an Assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States from 1974 to 1976. Judge Friedman practiced law as an associate and partner with White & Case from 1976 until 1994. He served as President of the District of Columbia Bar from 1986 to 1987, and as Associate Independent Counsel for the Iran-Contra Investigation from 1987 to 1988. He is a member of the Council of the American Law Institute.

RICARDO M. URBINA



Judge Urbina was appointed to the United States District Court in July 1994. He received a B.A. in 1967 from Georgetown University and graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1970. He served as staff attorney for the D.C. Public Defender Service from 1970 to 1972 and then entered private practice. From 1974 to 1981 he taught at Howard University Law School and directed the University's Criminal Justice Program. He was appointed Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in April 1981, and served as Presiding Judge of the Court's Family Division from 1985 to 1988.

EMMET G. SULLIVAN



Judge Sullivan was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in July 1994. He received a B.A. in 1968 from Howard University and a J.D. in 1971 from the Howard University School of Law. Following law school, Judge Sullivan was a Reginald Heber Smith Fellow from 1971 to 1972. Thereafter, he clerked for Judge James A. Washington, Jr., of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. From 1973 to 1984, Judge Sullivan served as an associate and partner at the firm of Houston & Gardner, and its successor, Houston, Sullivan & Gardner. He was appointed to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in October 1984 and served in every division of that court, including positions as Deputy and Presiding Judge of the Probate and Tax Divisions. In November 1991, he was appointed to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals where he served until his appointment to the federal bench. Judge Sullivan is a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference's Committee on Criminal Law.

JAMES ROBERTSON

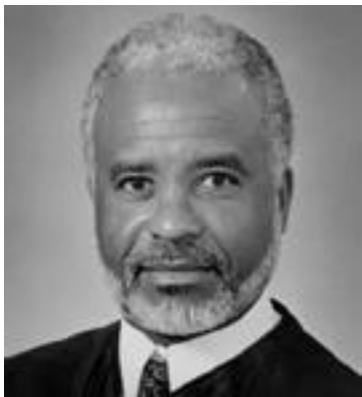


Judge Robertson was appointed United States District Judge in December 1994. He graduated from Princeton University in 1959 and received an LL.B. from George Washington University Law School in 1965 after serving in the U.S. Navy. From 1965 to 1969, he was in private practice with the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. From 1969 to 1972, Judge Robertson served with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, as chief counsel of the Committee's litigation offices in Jackson, Mississippi, and as director in Washington, D.C. Judge Robertson then returned to private practice with Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering, where he practiced until his appointment to the federal bench. While in private practice, he served as president of the District of Columbia Bar, co-chair of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and president of the Southern Africa Legal Services and Legal Education Project, Inc.

COLLEEN KOLLAR-KOTELLY



Judge Kollar-Kotelly was appointed to the United States District Court in May 1997. She received a B.A. in 1965 from The Catholic University of America and a J.D. in 1968 from Columbus School of Law, The Catholic University of America. Following law school, she served as law clerk to Judge Catherine B. Kelly of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. From 1969 to 1972, Judge Kollar-Kotelly was an attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and then served as the chief legal counsel to Saint Elizabeths Hospital until 1984. She was appointed Associate Judge of the D.C. Superior Court in October 1984, and served as Deputy Presiding Judge of the Criminal Division from 1995 until her appointment to the federal bench. Judge Kollar-Kotelly has been a Fellow of the American Bar Association, a founding member of the Thurgood Marshall Inn of Court, an adjunct professor at Georgetown University School of Medicine in a joint teaching program on mental health and the law, and chair of the Board of the Art Trust for Superior Court.



HENRY H. KENNEDY, JR.

Judge Kennedy was appointed to the U.S. District Court in September 1997. He graduated from Princeton University in 1970 and received a J.D. from Harvard Law School in 1973. Following graduation, he worked for a short time for the law firm of Reavis, Pogue, Neal and Rose, then served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1973 to 1976. From 1976 to 1979 he served as a United States Magistrate for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. In December 1979, he was appointed Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, where he served until his appointment to the federal bench.

RICHARD W. ROBERTS



Judge Roberts was appointed to the U.S. District Court in July 1998. He graduated *cum laude* from Vassar College (1974) and received an M.I.A. from the School for International Training (1978) and a J.D. from Columbia University (1978). Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Roberts served for three years as Chief of the Criminal Section in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. Previously, Judge Roberts was the Principal Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. In prior posts, Judge Roberts served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, an associate with Covington & Burling, and a trial attorney in the Criminal Section in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

ELLEN SEGAL HUVELLE



Judge Huvelle was appointed United States District Judge in October 1999. She completed her undergraduate studies at Wellesley College and received a Masters in City Planning from Yale University. In 1975, she received a J.D. from Boston College Law School, graduating *magna cum laude*. Following law school, Judge Huvelle served as law clerk to Chief Justice Edward F. Hennessey of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court. In October 1976, Judge Huvelle joined Williams & Connolly and became a partner in 1984. In 1990, Judge Huvelle became an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. On the bench of the Superior Court, Judge Huvelle served in the Criminal, Civil and Family Divisions. An experienced litigator, Judge Huvelle has served as an instructor in Trial Advocacy at the University of Virginia Law School and as a member of the Visiting Faculty at Harvard Law School's Trial Advocacy Workshop. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a member of the Edward Bennett Williams Inn of Court.

Senior Judges

WILLIAM B. BRYANT



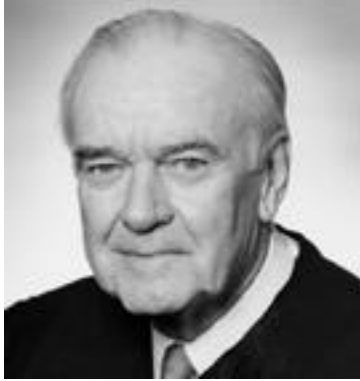
Judge Bryant was appointed to the United States District Court in August 1965 and took senior status in January 1982. He served as Chief Judge from March 1977 to September 1981. He graduated from Howard University, receiving an A.B. in 1932, and from Howard University Law School, receiving an LL.B. in 1936. Judge Bryant served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1947. He was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1951 to 1954. From 1954 until his appointment to the bench, Judge Bryant was engaged in private practice.

JUNE L. GREEN



Judge Green was appointed to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in June 1968 and took senior status in January 1984. She graduated from Washington College of Law, American University, receiving a J.D. in 1941. She was engaged in the private practice of law in Maryland and the District of Columbia for 25 years prior to her appointment to the bench.

THOMAS A. FLANNERY



Judge Flannery was appointed United States District Judge in December 1971. He received an LL.B. from Columbus University Law School, now part of The Catholic University of America, in 1940. Judge Flannery served in the U.S. Air Force as a combat intelligence officer from 1942 to 1945. He was in private practice and served in the Department of Justice from 1945 to 1950. He was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia from 1950 until 1961. Judge Flannery was a partner in the law firm of Hamilton & Hamilton from 1961 to 1969, when he was named U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, a position he held until his appointment to the court.

LOUIS F. OBERDORFER



Judge Oberdorfer was appointed to the United States District Court in October 1977. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1939 and received an LL.B. from Yale Law School in 1946 after four years of military service. Judge Oberdorfer was law clerk to Justice Hugo L. Black during the 1946 term of the U.S. Supreme Court. He was in private practice from 1947 until he became Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, Department of Justice, in 1961. He returned to private practice in 1965. When appointed to the bench, Judge Oberdorfer was a partner at Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. He has served as Co-Chairman of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, a member of the Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Chief Executive Officer of the Legal Services Corporation, and President of the D.C. Bar.

JOHN GARRETT PENN



Judge Penn was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in March 1979 and served as Chief Judge from March 1992 until July 1997. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts with an A.B. in 1954 and received an LL.B. from the Boston University School of Law in 1957. He attended the Woodrow Wilson School of International & Public Affairs at Princeton University from 1967 to 1968, where he was a National Institute of Public Affairs Fellow, and later attended the National Judicial College, University of Nevada. He served in the U.S. Army, Judge Advocate General's Corps, from 1958 to 1961. Judge Penn served as a Trial Attorney, Reviewer, and Assistant Chief of the General Litigation Section, Tax Division, Department of Justice, from 1961 to 1970, and as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 1970 to 1979.

JOYCE HENS GREEN



Judge Green was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in May 1979. She was a member of the U.S. Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court from May 1988 until her seven-year term expired in May 1995, and served as its Presiding Judge from May 1990 until the expiration of her term. Judge Green graduated from the University of Maryland, receiving a B.A. in 1949, and the George Washington University Law School, receiving a J.D. in 1951. Judge Green practiced law in the District of Columbia and Virginia until she was appointed Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia in 1968, where she served until her appointment to the federal bench in 1979. She is a member of the U.S. Judicial Conference's Judicial Branch Committee and Chair (1997-98), National Conference of Federal Trial Judges. Judge Green took senior status in July 1995.

STANLEY S. HARRIS



Judge Harris was appointed United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in November 1983 and took senior status in February 1996. He attended the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1945 and graduated from the University of Virginia with a B.S. in 1951 and an LL.B. in 1953. He served in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1947. Judge Harris served as an associate and partner at Hogan & Hartson from 1953 to 1970. He was appointed to the D.C. Superior Court in 1971 and served until 1972 when he was appointed to the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. Judge Harris left the Court in 1982 to become United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, where he served until his appointment to the United States District Court in 1983.

STANLEY SPORKIN



Judge Sporkin was sworn in as United States District Judge for the District of Columbia in February 1986. He received a B.A. in 1953 from Pennsylvania State University and graduated from Yale Law School in 1957. He is also a Certified Public Accountant. Judge Sporkin clerked for three years for a federal District Judge in Delaware, and then entered private practice. In 1961, he joined the Securities and Exchange Commission and practiced with the Commission for 20 years, serving as Chief of the Enforcement Division for seven years. From 1981 to 1986, he served as General Counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency. Judge Sporkin retired from the court in January 2000.

Magistrate Judges

DEBORAH A. ROBINSON



Magistrate Judge Robinson was sworn in as United States Magistrate Judge on July 18, 1988. She is a graduate of Morgan State University and Emory University School of Law. Magistrate Judge Robinson clerked for Chief Judge H. Carl Moultrie I of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia from 1978 to 1979. Following her clerkship, she joined the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia, where she served for eight years prior to her appointment.

ALAN KAY



Magistrate Judge Kay was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge in September 1991. He is a graduate of George Washington University, receiving a B.A. in 1957 and a J.D. from its National Law Center in 1959. Magistrate Judge Kay clerked for U.S. District Judges Alexander Holtzoff and William B. Jones. He was an attorney with the Public Defender Service and served in the U.S. Attorney's Office. From 1967 until his appointment, he was in private practice in the District of Columbia.

JOHN M. FACCIOLA



Magistrate Judge Facciola was appointed a United States Magistrate Judge in August 1997. He received an A.B. in 1966 from the College of the Holy Cross and a J.D. in 1969 from the Georgetown University Law Center. Following law school, Magistrate Judge Facciola served as an Assistant District Attorney in Manhattan from 1969 to 1973 and was in private practice in the District of Columbia from 1974 to 1982. He joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1982 and served as Chief of the Special Proceedings section from 1989 until his appointment as Magistrate Judge. Magistrate Judge Facciola is an adjunct professor of law at Catholic University. He is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a member of the Board of Governors of the John Carroll Society.

Office of the Clerk of the district court



Nancy Mayer-Whittington
Clerk of Court

The mission of the Clerk's Office is to provide courteous and efficient service to the court, the bar, and the public. The Clerk's Office has 74 employees and is divided into four divisions: Operations, Administrative Services, Systems, and the Office of the Clerk.

The Operations Division plays a major role in the operation of the court and consists of five judicial support units, the criminal unit, and the files/intake unit. The judicial support units are self-directed work teams comprised of courtroom deputies and docket clerks. Each unit provides complete support — courtroom coverage, case management, and docketing — to a small group of judicial officers associated with that unit. The criminal unit processes and docket all matters related to criminal cases. The files/intake unit oversees all aspects of records management and processes all civil matters submitted for filing.

Administrative Services has broad responsibilities and plays a significant role in providing nonjudicial administrative support to the court. Eight distinct functions are included in the mission of Administrative Services: attorney admissions, finance, jury, property and procurement, budget, space and facilities, interpreting services, and liaison to the court reporters.

The Systems Office provides automation support to the court and the Clerk's Office. The Systems Office is responsible for maintaining the court's docketing and case management database system and supporting the court's local area network and all personal computers assigned to district court judges, chambers staff and Clerk's Office staff.

The Office of the Clerk includes the Clerk of Court and her assistant, the human resource manager and her assistant, the training coordinator, and one management analyst. This office provides staff support to the judges' committees and many of the court-appointed advisory committees. The Office of the Clerk also designs and implements a wide variety of special projects at the request of the court.

united states probation office



Richard A. Houck, Jr.
Chief U.S. Probation Officer

The Probation Office serves the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia by performing presentence investigations to assist district judges in the choice of appropriate sentences for criminal defendants and by supervising the activities of persons conditionally released to the community.

The Probation Office is currently staffed with 51 probation officers and 29 support personnel.

The office plays a critical role in the sentencing of criminal defendants by preparing presentence investigation reports and providing sentencing guidelines calculations. Probation Officers gather and compile information related to the history and characteristics of a defendant, including prior criminal record, financial status, circumstances affecting the defendant's behavior helpful to sentencing or correctional treatment, classification of the offense and the defendant under the

categories established by the U.S. Sentencing Commission, and victim impact statements.

Probation Officers also serve as officers of the United States District Court and as agents of the United States Parole Commission for purposes of supervising the activities of persons sentenced to probation, supervised release, or parole. Specialists administer contracts for services (or deliver services) for drug, alcohol, and mental health treatment; HIV/AIDS counseling; a sanctions center; electronic monitoring of offenders; employment counseling; education and vocational assistance; and services for "special offenders." The mission of the office is to faithfully execute each offender's sentence, to control any risk posed by persons under its supervision, and to promote law-abiding behavior.

In 1998 and 1999, the Probation Office continued to increase its efforts to provide the highest quality, professional service to the court. Enhancements to the automation and telecommunications systems, the hiring of highly qualified staff, and increased training opportunities have helped move the office toward this goal. The office utilizes progressive strategies such as flexible work schedules and telecommuting options to assist its staff in meeting office goals and responsibilities with increased efficiency and effectiveness.

court reporters



Beverly Byrne
Court Reporting Supervisor

The primary duties of the court reporters are to record court proceedings and to produce verbatim transcripts of the proceedings when required. By statute, rule or order of the court, reporters must accurately report all court sessions and other proceedings because all U.S. District Courts are courts of record.

Proceedings recorded under this section include all proceedings in criminal, civil and other cases held in open court. 28 U.S.C. § 753.

At the close of 1999, the District Court employed 14 full-time reporters, the full complement authorized for the D.C. Circuit. The staff reporters serve all active judges, senior judges, and magistrate judges of the District Court. By custom in this district, each reporter is assigned to one active judge or senior judge. When the assigned judge is not engaged in court proceedings, the reporter's services may be utilized by another judge.

While official court reporters are employees of the court, their position is unique. They receive an annual salary but are the only court employees who must furnish their own supplies and equipment. However, the reporters may charge and collect fees for certain work performed in the course of their official duties. While transcripts prepared for official court records are provided to the court free of charge, reporters may collect fees for preparing transcripts at the request of parties. The fees for this service are established by the U.S. Judicial Conference.

Before being hired, all district court reporters must pass a vigorous three-part reporting test and a general knowledge written examination. They are also required to hold a Certificate of Proficiency from their reporting association. In addition, the two reporting associations, the National Court Reporters Association and the National Stenomask Verbatim Reporters Association, require, as a condition of membership, a prescribed level of continuing education to enhance a reporter's skills.

The court reporters assist the judges of the District Court by providing them with verbatim transcripts on an expedited basis. They read back prior testimony and work closely with chambers' staffs and the courtroom deputies to ensure that court proceedings are accurately recorded.

U.S. district Court Advisory Committees

The United States District Court has established nine committees, composed of members of the bench, the bar and court staff, to assist in its administrative efforts.

Advisory Committee on Local Rules

Rule 83 of Title 28 of the United States Code permits each district to adopt local rules consistent with the Federal Rules. The court's Advisory Committee on Local Rules was formed in 1973 to provide expert advice to the court as local rules are promulgated and changed. The committee, which is composed of local practitioners, also receives and submits comments to the court on proposed rule changes. The current members of the Advisory Committee on Local Rules are:

John D. Aldock, Chair
Robert J. Higgins
Alfred Irving
Tonia Powell
Grace E. Speights
Wendell W. Webster
Greg Hughes, <i>ex officio</i>
Judge Paul L. Friedman, Liaison

Advisory Committee on Non-Appropriated Funds

Local Rules governing membership in the bar of the District Court require the payment of a small fee upon an attorney's initial admission and at the time of each subsequent triennial renewal. The fees are used, in part, to defray the cost of keeping the court's register of attorneys current. Any balance is held in trust by the Clerk of Court. The funds are spent from time to time, with the approval of the court, primarily for the benefit of bench and bar. The current members of the Advisory Committee on Non-Appropriated Funds are:

Thomas Abbenante
Devarieste Curry
Christopher Davis
Darryl W. Jackson
Bettina Lawton
Lynn C. Leibovitz
Nancy Mayer-Whittington, <i>Trustee</i>
Elizabeth Paret, <i>ex officio</i>
Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, Liaison

Criminal Justice Act Panel Selection Committee

Pursuant to the Criminal Justice Act of 1964, 18 U.S.C. § 3006A (as amended), the judges of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia have adopted a plan to provide lawyers to defendants who are financially unable to obtain adequate representation. The CJA Panel Selection Committee reviews the qualifications of private attorneys who are eligible and willing to provide representation under the Criminal Justice Act and recommends the best qualified to the court. The current members of the CJA Panel Selection Committee are:

Judge Gladys Kessler, Chair
Magistrate Judge Deborah A. Robinson
Francis D. Carter
A.J. Kramer
R. Stan Mortenson

Advisory Committee on Pro Se Litigation

Pursuant to the provisions of Local Civil Rule 83.11, the Advisory Committee on Pro Se Litigation oversees the 137 volunteer members of the Civil Pro Bono Panel. Panel members represent *pro se* parties who are proceeding *in forma pauperis* in civil actions and cannot obtain counsel by any other means. In 1998, the court made 71 assignments to members of the panel; in 1999, 93 assignments were made. The current members of the Advisory Committee on Pro Se Litigation are:

Eugene R. Fidell, Chair		
Avis Buchanan	Dwight D. Murray	John Risher
Lovida H. Coleman, Jr.	W. Mark Nebeker	Michelle Roberts
Ivan K. Fong	Rob Okun	Jeffrey D. Robinson
Sharon Cummings Giles	Alan A. Pemberton	Sidney R. Smith III
Karen T. Grisez	Anthony T. Pierce	Maureen Thornton Syracuse
Christopher J. Herrling	John Relman	Donald Thigpen, Jr.
Eric Lotke		John C. Yang
Carol Freeman, <i>ex officio</i>		
Addie Hailstorks, <i>ex officio</i>		
Michael Zoeller, <i>ex officio</i>		
Judge Gladys Kessler, Liaison		

Committee on Grievances

Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 83.14 and Local Criminal Rule 57.25, the court's Committee on Grievances is charged with receiving, investigating, considering and acting upon complaints against members of the bar of the District Court that may involve disbarment, suspension, censure, reinstatement or other disciplinary actions. The committee receives complaints from judges, members of the bar and litigants. The committee is appointed by the court, and membership is rotated after a period of service. The current members of the Committee on Grievances are:

Joseph E. diGenova, Chair
Pamela B. Stuart, Vice Chair

A. Scott Bolden
Richard L. Cys
Laurel Pyke Malson
Stuart H. Newberger
Robert Rigsby
Joseph N. Alexander, Jr., Clerk

Judge Paul L. Friedman, Liaison

Rule 711 Counseling Panel

The Rule 711 Counseling Panel receives referrals from District Court judges of attorneys who exhibit a deficiency in performance. Upon referral, an attorney may receive counseling from a panel member on matters relating to litigation practice, ethics or possible substance abuse problems. The provisions of former Rule 711 are now contained in Local Civil Rule 83.14 and Local Criminal Rule 57.25. The current members of the Rule 711 Counseling Panel are:

Beverly J. Burke, Chair

Maureen Duignan
Karen Hardwick
Robert E. Jordan III
Kim M. Keenan
Anthony T. Pierce

Judge Paul L. Friedman, Liaison

Committee on Courtroom Technology

The Committee on Courtroom Technology was created in January 1998. The mission of the committee is threefold: to oversee the operation, maintenance and upgrade of existing courtroom technology, including the electronic courtrooms, the video-conferencing systems, the mobile evidence presentation systems and the courtroom sound systems; to design and retrofit additional courtrooms with the full array of next-generation courtroom technology; and to make recommendations regarding the integration of courtroom technology into the annex design. Committee members are appointed by the Chief Judge and work under the auspices of the District Court Automation Policy Committee. The current members of the Committee on Courtroom Technology are:

Judge Thomas F. Hogan, Chair

Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly

Judge Richard W. Roberts

Jack H. Olender

Joan H. Strand

Donald Thigpen, Jr.

Marguerite Willis

Elizabeth Paret

John Cramer

Two temporary committees also assisted the District Court
with administrative matters during 1998 and 1999.

Civil Justice reform committee

The Civil Justice Reform Committee was established in 1994 as an outgrowth of the Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group. The committee worked with the court to review and assess the implementation of the expense and delay reduction plan for the court. The committee concluded its work in 1999. The members of the Civil Justice Reform Committee were:

Stephen A. Saltzburg, Chair

John D. Bates

Jane Lang

Judith A. Miller

Dwight D. Murray

Elizabeth Paret, *ex officio*

Judge Paul L. Friedman, Liaison

merit selection panel
for the reappointment of magistrate judges

In 1999 a Merit Selection Panel for the Reappointment of Magistrate Judges was established to consider the reappointment of Magistrate Judge Alan Kay. After considering comments received from members of the bar and the public, as well as pertinent information regarding Judge Kay's character, judgment, legal ability, temperament and commitment to equal justice under law, the panel recommended reappointment. The members of the Merit Selection Panel were:

<p style="text-align:center">Charles E. Epps, M.D. Chauncey Fortt, Ph.D. Ronald C. Jessamy, Sr. A.J. Kramer Michelle A. Roberts Joseph Sellers Jacob Stein</p>
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U.S. district Court Work load Information

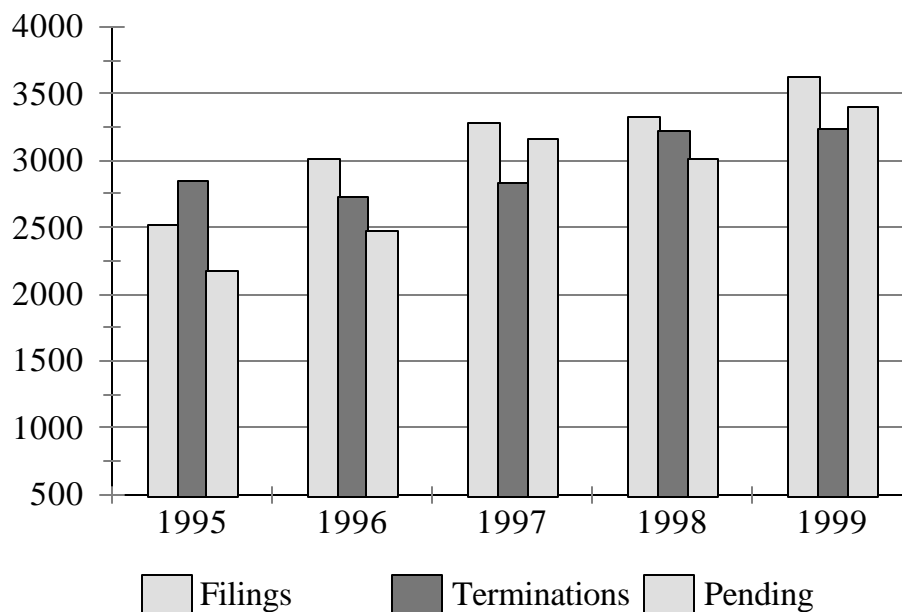
Case load Summary all cases 1997-1999

Following an eight percent increase in 1997, the number of District Court filings remained stable in 1998. In 1999, case filings rose seven percent to 4,055. This was due to a nine percent rise in civil case filings.

	1997	1998	Change	1999	Change
Filings	3,790	3,785	-0.1%	4,055	7.1%
Terminations	3,368	3,666	8.8%	3,645	-0.6%
Pending	3,159	3,278	3.8%	3,687	12.5%

Case load Summary civil cases 1995-1999

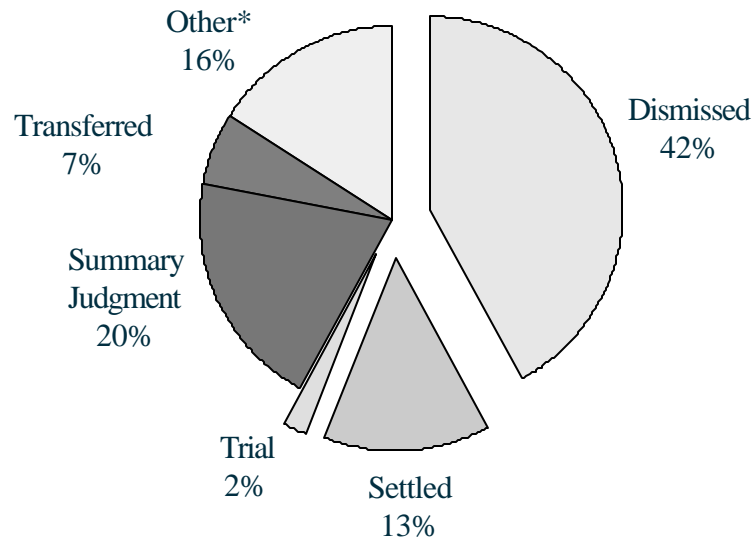
Civil case filings increased by more than 20 percent between 1995 and 1996, due in large measure to an increase in petitions filed following the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Bailey v. United States*. After rising another nine percent in 1997, civil case filings leveled off in 1998 and then rose by almost nine percent in 1999. The increase in civil filings from 1998 to 1999 was the result of a rise in prisoner petitioner cases from 528 to 779 and in student loan cases from 533 to 743. These increases were somewhat offset by a drop in filings in the “other statutory actions” category from 396 to 199.



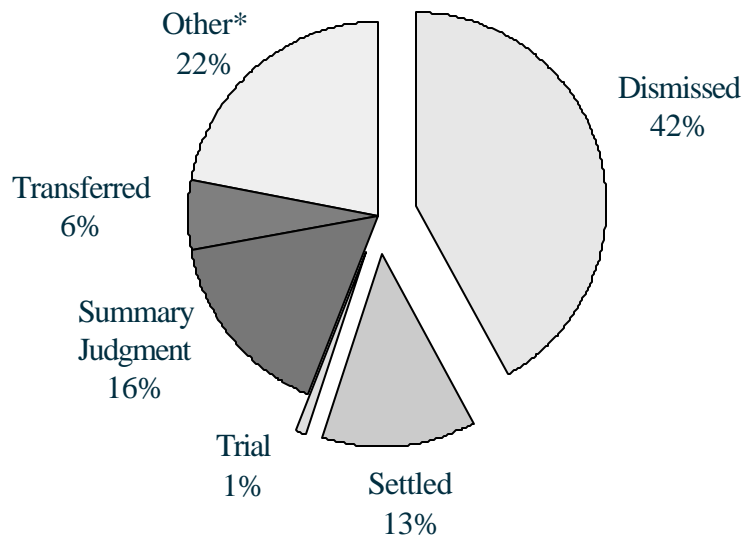
civil Case terminations

As in previous years, more than 40 percent of all 1998 and 1999 civil cases were terminated by dismissal. The percentage of cases terminated by settlement and by trial also remained relatively constant.

1998:



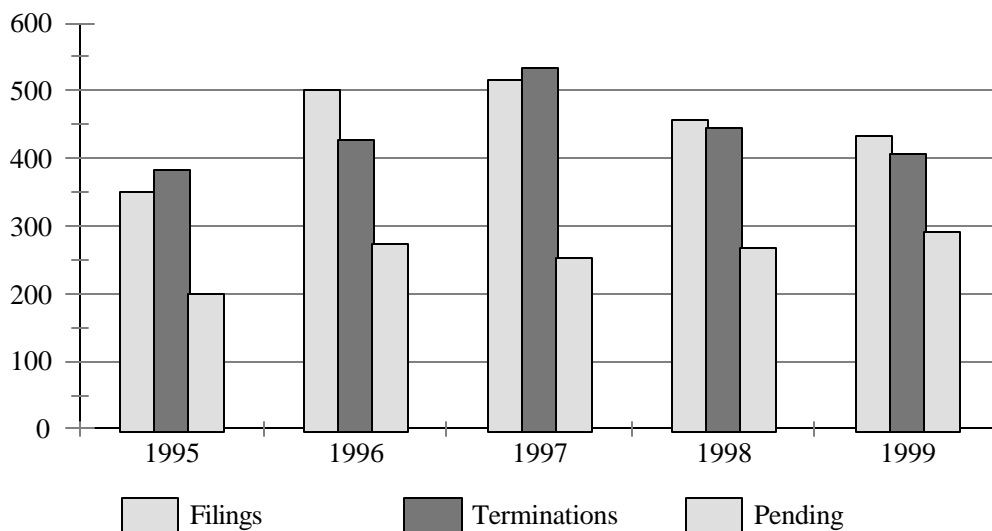
1999:



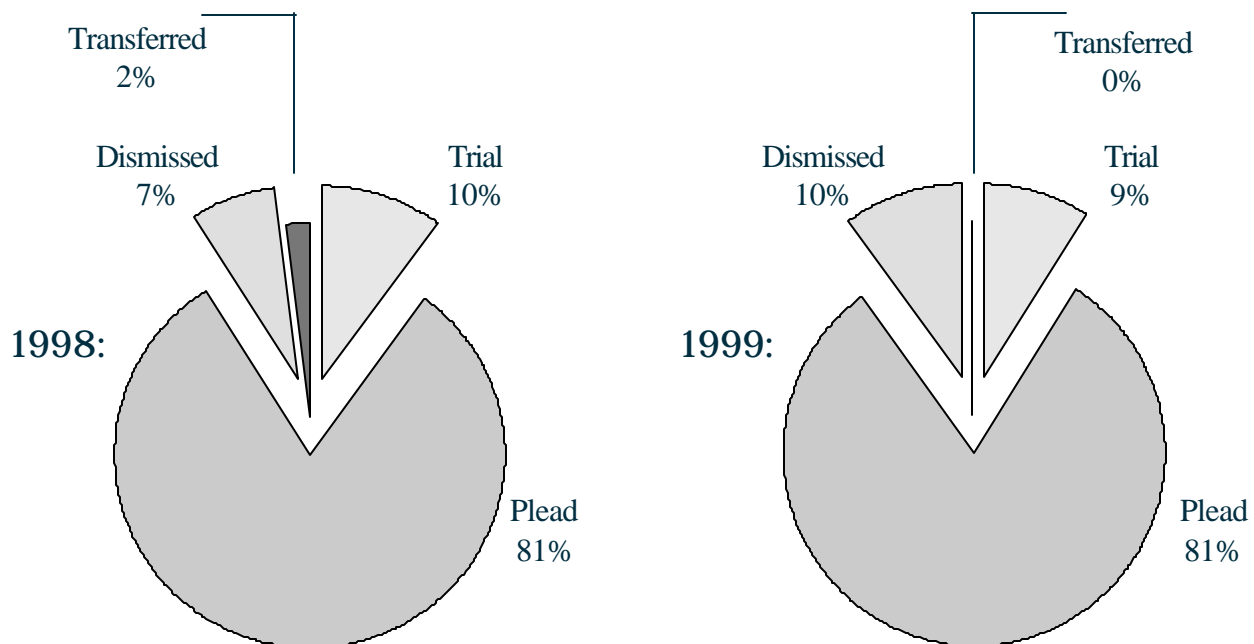
* "Other" terminations include judgment on default, consent judgment and other judgments.

Case load Summary criminal cases 1995-1999

After leveling off in 1997, criminal case filings decreased in 1998 and 1999. A total of 457 criminal cases were filed in 1998, and 433 were filed in 1999.



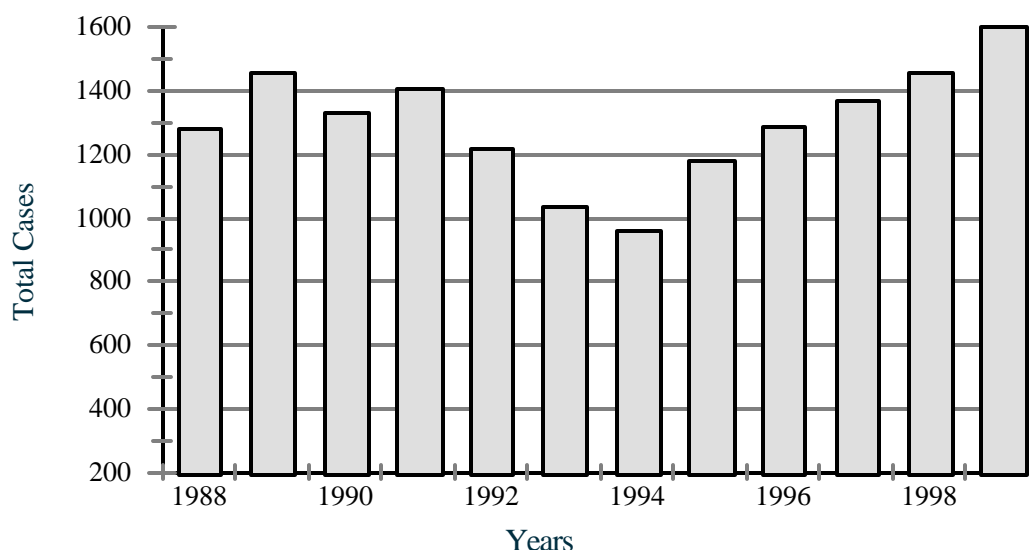
Criminal Case Terminations



U.S. PROBATION OFFICE WORK LOAD information

The current supervision case load of the Probation Office is comprised of individuals placed on probation and post-incarceration supervised release by the District Court, as well as persons released to community supervision by the United States Parole Commission. In addition, since August of 1998, the office has, pursuant to the D.C. Revitalization Act, been responsible for supervising all individuals who were sentenced in the District of Columbia Superior Court and incarcerated in a federal Bureau of Prisons facility at the time of parole.

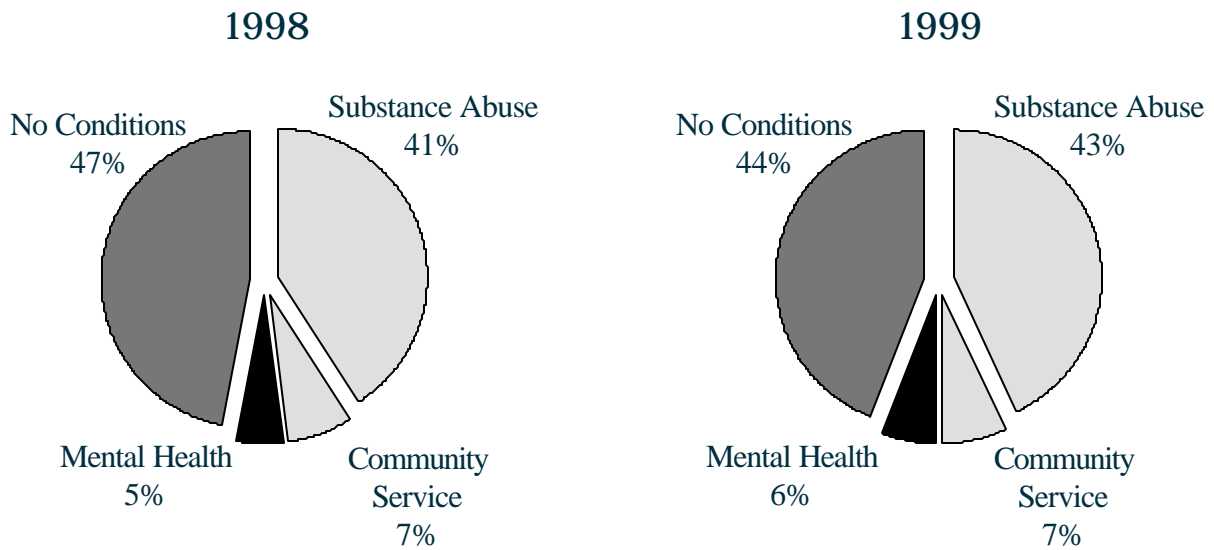
Supervision Cases 1988-1999



A significant portion of the increase in supervision cases in 1998 and 1999 is directly attributable to the D.C. Revitalization Act. Prior to 1998 the number of parole cases in the office had dwindled to about 100 — the result of the abolition of parole at the federal level by the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984. Under the Revitalization Act, the number of cases involving parolees nearly tripled over a two-year period. Several other factors have also contributed to the steady increase in the supervision caseload since 1995. First, the office now supervises offenders sentenced by the District Court who reside in the local suburbs. Second, there has been a shift in the type of cases prosecuted in federal court: fewer have mandatory minimums and, as a result, a greater proportion of the individuals who are convicted are eligible for supervision by the Probation Office. Finally, in 1997, the Probation Office began to supervise a small number of pretrial defendants released by the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern District of Virginia (Alexandria) and the District of Maryland but residing in the District of Columbia.

Supervision Cases With Special Conditions 1998-1999

In 1998 and 1999 the number of cases involving substance abuse and mental-health treatment conditions rose slightly over 1997 numbers, while cases involving community service as a condition of supervision remained constant. The increase in the former is directly attributable to the increase in cases originating from the D.C. Superior Court under the D.C. Revitalization Act. Currently, over 40 percent of the cases in the Probation Office have special conditions for drug treatment — an unusually high proportion among federal courts of a similar size in urban settings. While the office is no longer receiving D.C. Superior Court cases in large numbers, it continues to supervise a significant group of these offenders.



Presentence Reports 1998-1999

The production of presentence reports represents a significant portion of the work of the Probation Office. The reports are used by judges in structuring sentences and by the Bureau of Prisons in determining the appropriate classification and correctional facility assignment for offenders. In 1998 and 1999, the number of presentence reports prepared by the office decreased by nineteen and nine percent respectively. This was a result of a decrease in remands pursuant to the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Bailey v. United States*, a decrease in large multi-defendant cases, and a change in the United States Attorney's guidelines for prosecuting narcotics cases.

